

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A boot adapted for coupling to a boot-can connector, the boot comprising:

a cylindrical neck member; and

an annular member having a longitudinal axis and a crimping lip for being received by the boot-can connector, said crimping lip having a plurality of radially distributed apertures which are oriented parallel to said longitudinal axis for reducing the stiffness and increasing the compressibility of said crimping lip.

2. The boot of claim 1, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures are a plurality of equally circumferentially spaced apart holes.

3. The boot of claim 1, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures are a plurality of equally circumferentially spaced apart radially distributed cut-outs.

4. The boot of claim 1, wherein the annular member is formed of a thermoplastic material.

5. A boot and boot-can assembly adapted for attachment to an outer race of a constant velocity universal joint, the boot and boot-can assembly comprising; a boot-can connector having a first end for mating with the outer race and a second flanged end; and

a boot formed of a thermoplastic material and having an annular member including a crimping lip for being received by the second flanged end of the boot-can connector, the crimping lip having a plurality of radially distributed

apertures for reducing the stiffness and increasing the compressibility of the crimping lip.

5 6. The boot and boot-can assembly of claim 5, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures are a plurality of equally circumferentially spaced apart holes.

7. The boot and boot-can assembly of claim 5, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures are a plurality of equally circumferentially spaced apart holes.

10 8. A constant velocity universal joint assembly comprising:  
a boot-can having a first end for mating with said outer race and a second flanged end; and  
a thermoplastic rolling-diaphragm boot having crimping lip for being received by the second end of the boot-can, the crimping lip having a plurality of radially distributed apertures for increasing the compressibility of the annular lip.

15 sub 8.9. The constant velocity universal joint assembly of claim 8, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed holes.

20 10. The constant velocity universal joint assembly of claim 8, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed cut-outs.

sub B. 11. A constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft assembly comprising:  
a propeller shaft having a first end;

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a constant velocity universal joint for receiving the first end of the propeller shaft and including an outer race having a first face;

a boot-can having a large-diameter end and a smaller-diameter flanged end, the larger-diameter end for mating with the first face of the outer race;

5 and

a thermoplastic boot having sealing end, a tubular stem portion for receiving the propeller shaft, and an annular upturned edge crimpingly affixed to the smaller-diameter flanged end of the boot-can, the annular upturned edge having a plurality of radially distributed apertures for increasing the compressibility of the annular upturned edge, and the sealing end cooperating with the propeller shaft to provide a seal therewith.

Sub C. 12. The constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft assembly of claim 11, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed holes.

15 13. The constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft assembly of claim 11, wherein the plurality of radially distributed <sup>u1</sup>apertures include a plurality of radially distributed cut-outs.

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